

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
May 23, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

INVOCATION: Reverend Randy Scott – Pentecostals of South Lake

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Clerk Treasurer Eugene Guernsey thanked Centier Bank for choosing the Town of Merrillville as the location for their corporate headquarters.

ROLL CALL: Mrs. Barron was absent. All other members were present.

PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated May 23, 2017. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2017. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

BUDGET & FINANCE:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

PUBLIC WORKS:

Mr. Minchuk had no report.

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Mrs. Barron was absent, no report.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Mrs. Uzelac spoke about an issue of mailboxes being knocked down and vehicles speeding in the area of 78th Ave. Chief Petruch will have extra patrols assigned and Mr. Spires will look into having additional signage posted for that location. A discussion took place related to the railroad crossing on Taft. President Hardaway requested for Mr. Spires to look into having signage posted stating dangerous/rough crossing at that location.

PARKS & RECREATION:

Ms. LaMarca referred to Jan Orlich for a report. Ms. Orlich said NIPSCO made the repairs at each of the park locations in which damage occurred by NIPSCO trucks accessing property without permission. Ms. Orlich mentioned the Fourth of July Parade applications are being mailed to last year's participants in an effort to get more people involved. A nutrition class will be held on June 8th -15th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Ms. Orlich spoke about registering the Parks Department on Google and provided the statistic feedback. A discussion among the Town Council took place regarding Union Park. Ms. Orlich talked about organizing an advisory committee for the feasibility study and provided the details involved with this process. Mr. Pettit and Ms. LaMarca volunteered to join the advisory board. Ms. Orlich will reach out to the other interested parties.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:

Mrs. Barron was absent. Mr. Lake provided updates on various drainage improvement projects taking place and/or beginning. Mr. Lake also mentioned they received an IDEM 319 grant for an upcoming drainage improvement project.

ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Mr. Pettit had no report.

UTILITY LIAISON:

Mr. Spann had no report.

ABANDONED PROPERTIES:

President Hardaway had no report.

GENERAL ORDERS:

FIRST READING ORDINANCES:

None

SECOND READING ORDINANCES:

Ord. 17-07: An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Fire and Hazmat Fund for the year 2017 not included in the current budget. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion or public comment. The motion carried by a 6-0 roll call vote.

RESOLUTIONS:

Res. 17-13: A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2017 budget within the Police Department General Fund. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

BZA ACTIONS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

On Memorial Day, May 29, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. will be the Fire Department Silent Parade.

Dr. Vernon Smith, Indiana State Representative, discussed the latest 2017 State Legislation session. Dr. Smith provided a hand out with all active bills from this last legislative session and briefly touched on various bills that may be of interest to the town. Discussion occurred throughout the presentation. Attorney Bushemi presented a request from the Town Council regarding an issue related to childcare facilities. Lengthy discussion continued related to this topic.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Abandoned Blighted Properties Committee meeting, May 25, 2017 at 10:30 a.m.

Town Hall Offices Closed (except for Emergency Services) May 29, 2017 in observance of Memorial Day.

Police Commission meeting, June 2, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.

Stormwater Management Board meeting, June 6, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

Plan Commission workshop meeting, June 6, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Town Council meeting, June 13, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Pettit made a motion to adjourn was seconded by Mrs. Uzelac.

Richard Hardaway, President

Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer